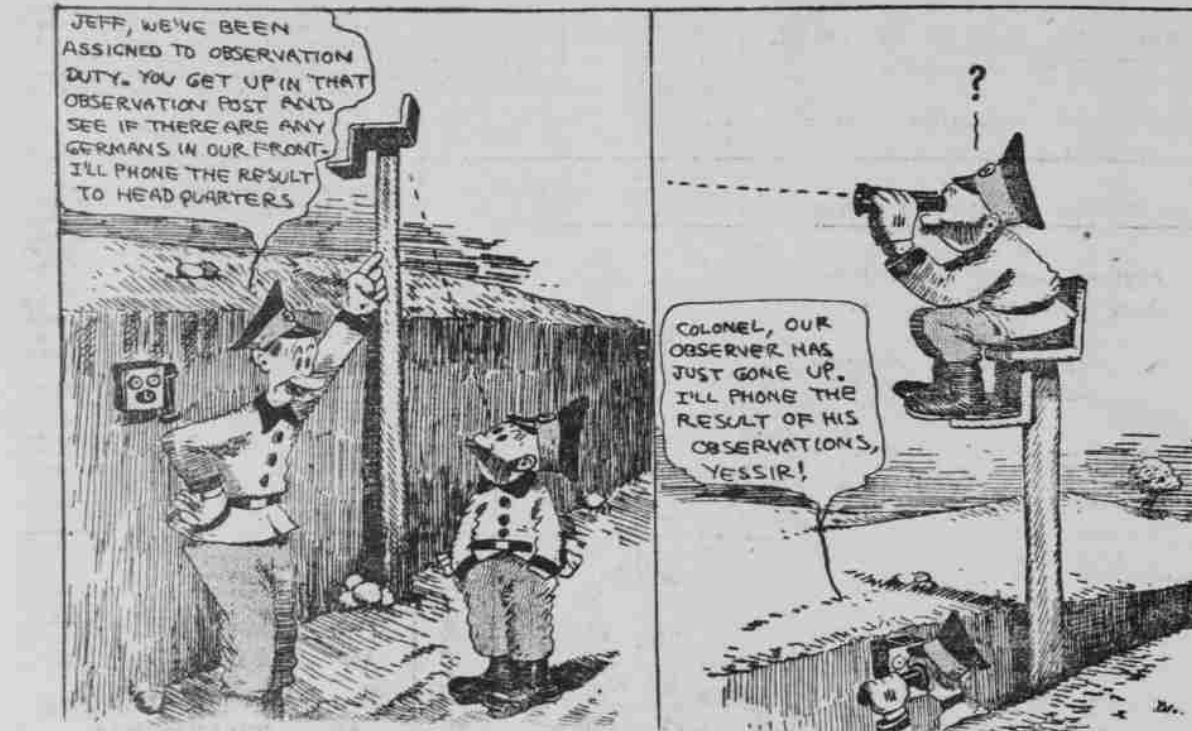


## MUTT &amp; JEFF—Leave It to Mutt to Pick the Soft Jobs for Himself.

Drawn for the Topeka State Journal  
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By BUD FISHER

Up to the Minute  
SPORTING NEWS  
From Everywhere.

## AGGIES ARE HERE

Farmer Five Clashes With Ichabods This Afternoon.

Title Prospects Loom Large for Merner's Tossers.

Flushed with their double victory over the Jayhawkers and justly puffed up over their chances of winning the Missouri Valley championship, Coach Merner and his Manhattan Aggie basketball quintet arrived in Topeka today for a second clash with the Washburn Ichabods this afternoon.

The Aggie squad consists of Captain Adams, Reynolds and Van Trine, forwards; MacRath and Leonard, centers; and Ramsey, McMillan and Gunnison, guards. The game with the Ichabods was scheduled for this afternoon instead of tonight by agreement so that the Aggies could return home on an early night train.

The race for the Missouri Valley title now seems to be a race between only the Aggie and the Ichabods, and from the wonderful way the Manhattan tossers have been going, it looks as though Missouri would have to hustle to stop them. It is true the games with K. U. were the first conference games Merner's men have played, but their showing against the Ichabods is sufficient evidence that they have a whirlwind team.

In their game last week the Farmer-Five defeated Washburn by the overwhelming score of 66 to 10, and there was little to indicate that they wouldn't add another victory this afternoon. But the fact that the Jayhawkers made them extend themselves and also the improved condition of the Ichabods presented a smaller score. E. C. Quigley, who officiated in the game at Lawrence, was scheduled to lead the game this afternoon. At Chambers, student manager of the Washburn team, announced that the game would begin at 3 o'clock.

**Friday Night's Game.**

Lawrence, Kan., Jan. 22.—The Kansas Aggies made a clean sweep of the series by more than doubling the score over the Jayhawkers. Friday night, the final count being 25 to 12. Gibben, left forward, made all of the local twelve points, with three field goals and six free throws.

The visitors led at the close of the

## Wm. Michael Finnegan, One of Savage's New Players

W. M. Finnegan—William Michael, of course—whose likeness appears across the column in this story is one of the new men who will probably play an important part in the fight of the Topeka Savages for the Western league ring of victory this season.

Finnegan is a youngster with the map of Old Erin written plainly in every feature of his face, and his said that every bone in his body was built with the idea of making him a king of the diamond. He is 22 years old and claims Pittsfield, Mass. as his native city.

John Savage procured him upon the recommendation of a big league scout, and though he has never seen him, believes that he will make a valuable cog in the new baseball machine he is building.

Finnegan is a third baseman by profession, but he is also said to be a corking shortstop. He played his first professional ball in 1914 with the Pittsfield club of the Eastern Association and made such a good showing that the Columbia club of the South Atlantic league grabbed him in 1914. During '14 he played the base man of the time, and the records show that he batted .251. The big league scout who recommended him to Savage watched him for the greater part of a month last season, and said that while he never showed signs of being a high average hitter, he proved one of the greatest pinch hitters in his league and was almost certain to get a nice bingle when a bingle meant a run. He also confided that he thought another year or so would surely make him ready for entrance into the big show.

The figures on his last season's record are not available, but it is understood he batted close to the .300 mark and made a remarkable fielding average. In the field he has always been a steady, reliable player, it is said.

Mr. Finnegan is spending the winter as a clerk in a fashionable hotel in Pittsfield, N. C. He will be brought to Topeka with the first squad of



Introducing Mr. William Michael Finnegan to Topeka Fans

## ITS BIRTHPLACE

Was Basketball Originated in Kansas or Massachusetts?

Eastern Man Would Take Honor From Jayhawkers.

Undoubtedly fate has decreed that the basketball prestige of Kansas university is becoming too great, and in addition to dishing out to the Jayhawkers a team this year that is far inferior to those that have made Lawrence the big berry in Missouri Valley tossing in years past, the old girl who presides over the destinies of such things has now caused to spring up an institution that claims the honor of having been the first school where the game of goal tossing was played.

In this section of the country it has been generally understood that K. U. was the birthplace of basketball, and stories are often told of how the first games were played in Lawrence with bottomless peach baskets for goals.

But, writing in the Philadelphia Ledger, John T. Winterich asserts that the game was originated at the Young Men's Christian Association College at Springfield, Mass. True, the credit of originating the game and making it popular is given to Dr. James Naismith, just as it is at Lawrence and throughout this section of the country, but if the story published in Philadelphia is correct, Kansas and K. U. lose a distinction of great importance in the sport world.

The story of Mr. Winterich is reproduced below. It is true because of the assertions made regarding the origin of the game, but because it is very timely just now when the basketball season is at its height and is the predominating sport in intercollegiate circles everywhere.

**The Winterich Story.**

Basketball, most youthful of intercollegiate sports, this winter entered upon its twenty-fifth season. Compared with golf, tennis, cricket or even baseball it is still a frisky youngster. It differs from them, too, in that it was evolved virtually complete in a man's brain before a single mark was ever placed on a gymnasium floor to define the limits of the court. It has no traditions.

The distinction makes basketball unique. It was the product of a theory. That theory was an idea which crystallized in the mind of James Naismith, who, in 1891, was instructor in the gymnasium of the Young Men's Christian Association College at Springfield, Mass. Naismith saw that gymnasium work became, as the winter progressed, pretty much of a bore. For even their most faithful adherents, continual juggling of dumb-bells and Indian clubs and tugging at chest weights came to lack the enthusiasm and spontaneity which, more than any other element, makes physical exercise truly beneficial. Why not, then, form an indoor exercise which should combine muscular effort with "the rigor of the game?"

**Built From Nothing.**

The sole material aspect of his idea at the outset was the smooth gymnasium floor and its four walls. The game must be attractive, that was essential. It must be such a delight that men—and women—would like to play it for its own sake, and not primarily for hygienic results. The chest weights did that. It should be simple and easy to learn, so that the transition from class work might be made immediately, without any loss of time in the study of hampering technicalities.

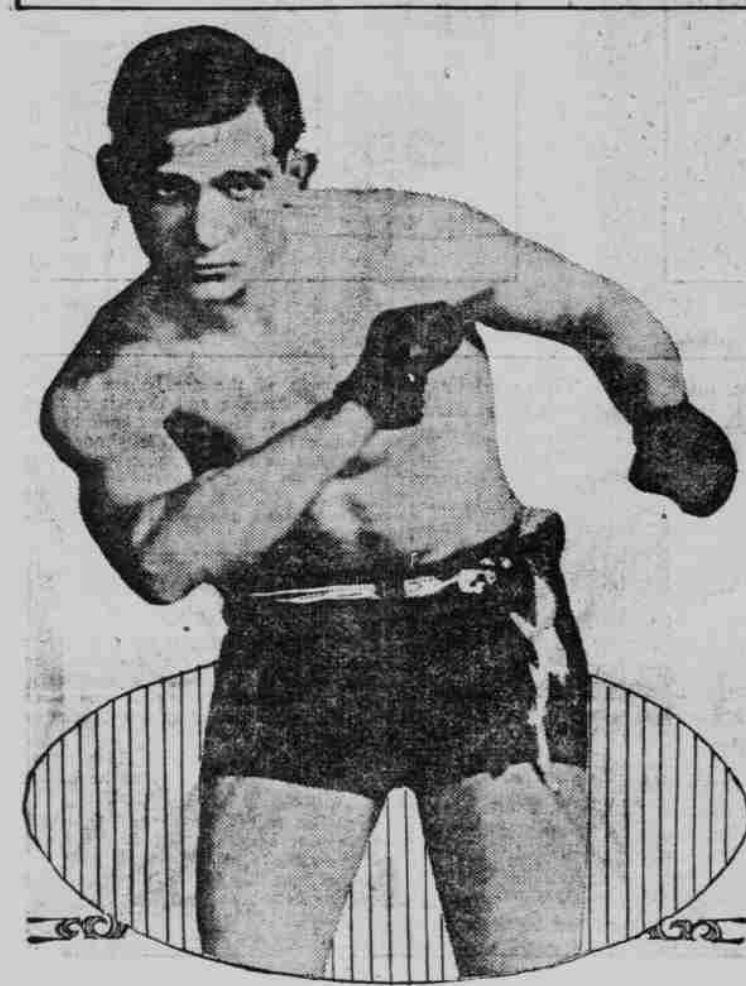
It should be a test of skill as well as of strength; there must be room for the development of teamwork. Why not a game in which a ball should be tossed into large baskets suspended at either end of a gymnasium floor? Here was a form of competition which satisfied all the requirements. Equipment, too, was readily available. Here was the floor, and baskets suitable, at least, for experimental purposes, could be had for a few cents. But what of the ball? This was the crux of Naismith's problem.

Having developed the game thus far, however, he did not intend to let a mere ball stand in the way of actual accomplishment. Every possible sphere was tried, large and small, hard and soft. Practice showed that it must be large to forestall the temptation to carry it, and that it must be inflated, both for purposes of dribbling and to prevent injury to the players. Finally the regulation association football was adopted and proved wholly satisfactory, the only alternative was to wait for a ball to be manufactured which should exactly meet Naismith's desire—a process which would have postponed the inception of the game.

**Growth of the Game.**

By 1894 basketball made fair to span the world. It had reached to Paris in one direction and to Melbourne in the other. Even before this it had been taken up by women gymnasts. The fame of the game

## GEORGE BROWN IS ONLY MAN FROM U. S. A. TO GIVE LES DARCY REAL STIFF BATTLE



George Brown.

It remained for George Brown, the Chicago Greek, generally considered a "so-so" performer in America, to give the sensational Les Darcy the best fight any United States man has made against the Australian blacksmith since he attained a prominent position in the ring. Darcy got the decision at the end of twenty rounds in a battle a few days ago, but it was anything but a popular verdict.

early spread to Smith college, in Northampton, 20 miles from Springfield, and interclass contests became the vogue.

How little basketball has changed since Naismith's day is evidenced in its flexible rules. Rule 1, of the official rules says that the game "may be played on any grounds free from obstruction" measuring not in excess of "4,000 square feet of actual playing space." The size of the ball, the diameter of the basket and its height from the floor, the number of men to a side—these details have of course been standardized. But in virtually every other respect, basketball is the identical game which James Naismith deliberately set down to invent in order to eliminate the tedium from gymnasium work.

**YANKS GET 3 MORE FEES.**

Cullop, Former Kansas City Twinner, Included in Latest Purchase.

New York, Jan. 22.—The New York American league baseball club has obtained three more Federal league players by purchase. The star of the trio is Nick Cullop, formerly the leading pitcher of the Kansas City club, who ranked fourth in the Federal league twirling averages at the end of the 1915 season. The other two players are Joe Gedeon, who signed with the Newark Federals after the close of the last playing season, and the big league veteran, Herman (Germany) Shuster.

The club also released three players, Pitchers Brown and King going to the Louisville club, and Outfielder Daley to the Vernon club of the Coast league.

**BAKER WALLOPS C. OF E.**

Baldwin Quintet Won Friday Night Game by One Point Margin.

Baldwin, Kan., Jan. 22.—Baker university defeated College of Emporia here Friday night, 32 to 31, after five minutes extra play which was necessary to break a tie. Baker won on a free throw.

The game was in the doubtful class all the way. The first half ended with the score 16 to 18 in favor of Emporia, and although Baker whipped up in great shape, they were unable to do more than reduce the lead. It was in the extra five minute session when the luck broke. Stuckey at center for Baker and Bruner, who went in during the last half, starred.

**JOHNNY ERTLE WINS BOUT.**

New York, Jan. 22.—Johnny Ertle of St. Paul, Minn., won a ten round weight championship, out fought Jack Sayles of this city in a ten round bout here Friday night. Ertle was the more

## Sport Wheezes

—BY CLUG—

Aggie-Washburn basketball game in Washburn gymnasium this afternoon.

The Aggies are out for the Missouri Valley championship and they look like favorites, but in spite of this Washburn hoped to hold them under a 66 to 10 score.

**WILLARD ROBBED.**

Bold robbers broke into a till of Willard, so they say. They took fur coats and money, too. And made their get away.

But the robbers made an error—A bonhead, well, I guess! They robbed the town of Willard. Instead of robbing Jess.

The loss of Jumbo Stehm undoubtedly took a lot of steam out of Nebraska's football machine. But the loss of Chamberlain will be more disastrous. It means that a new piston rod will have to be procured.

Boxers now are taking up the mask idea and a fighter will soon appear in the ring in New York wearing a mask. Most fighters need one—especially Jim Coffey, the glass jawed giant.

The Des Moines club of the W. L. will play two exhibition games with the Chicago White Sox on April 6 and 7. And a Des Moines paper also announces that Ross Labell has signed an 18-year-old California high school outfielder for his team.

The other night in St. Paul Mike Gibbons received \$3,456.55 for a minute and a half's work when he knocked out Young Ahern in one round. Mike Gibbons is a real prizefighter. He hasn't anything on Mike in earning capacity.

Sammy Mayer, who set the Western league on fire while he was with the Topeka Savages during a part of last season and who got well into the limelight by making phenomenal hops between the Fed and O. B. camps is again breaking into print.

This week's Sporting News says of him: "Sammy Mayer, who jumped the Kansas City Blues for the Feds and then jumped back when sold by Kansas City to Washington, which returned him to the Kansas City club, objects, it is stated, to going back to the American association. Perhaps he would like to play with the Feds."

The truth about the matter is, Mayer probably is heard that the Blues will have to train in Arkansas this spring. He does not go strong for any kind of pork meat, and the prospect of having to eat razorback meat while getting into condition very likely does not appeal to him.

Even in New York they are waking

up to the fact that Sunday baseball keeps a lot of people from observing the Sabbath by doing things more sinful than watching a ball game. A bill has been introduced by a Democrat assemblyman that, if passed, will permit baseball games of any kind between the hours of 2:30 and 6 o'clock on Sunday afternoons.

## BASEBALL SCRIPTURE.

As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a great fielder without the ability to hit bats.

For all that do such things, and all that do them everlastingly, are an abomination to the boss, their manager.

But, as vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so is the boss who muffs and boots 'em to the fans.

The Western League meeting that was to have been held in Lincoln this week for the purpose of discussing the schedule and instructing President Zehrung as to what action he should take regarding the refusal of Tip O'Neill to turn over the books of the league did not materialize. And John Savage, owner of the local club, says he does not expect a gathering of the magnates now until February 15, the date set for arranging the schedule.

Aside from the fact that it is proving a great inconvenience to President Zehrung, the club owners do not appear to be worrying very much over getting the records and books from Tip. And the reason the magnates are not worrying is probably because, as Sandy Christowd stated in the Omaha World-Herald, they know they can make it hot for him by bringing up the Goldenrule bill proposition and other matters if he does not do the square thing.

The statement that the 66 to 10 score made against Washburn by the Aggies last week is the largest score that a basketball team has made this season is incorrect. The University of Texas recently defeated the San Marcos Baptist academy 102 to 1.

The latest report is that Tex Rickard is still dickering with Curley for a chance to stage the Willard-Moran fight. And you can bet your palmas that if Tex sees Curley in it he will have his finger in the pie. And if he has his finger in it, it will be pretty apt to be a success.

Tonight local wrestling fans are promised a real bill of merit when Louis Hoffman and Young Westergard meet in North Topeka for a final match. The preliminaries are scheduled to begin at 8:30 o'clock.

## NEW SWIMMING GUIDE OUT.

Spalding Issues Valuable Book Giving Rules of All Water Sports.

The growth of interest in swimming at colleges and schools has brought forth the new Intercollegiate Swimming Guide—published in the Spalding Athletic Library Series—containing the official rules for swimming, water polo and water basketball as arranged and codified by the National Collegiate Athletic association committee on swimming and water sports.

The book has been edited by Mr. Leitch, and in addition to the official rules, constitution and other matters directly connected with the association, should be in the hands of every one interested in the sport. The symposium on the crawl stroke being of great value, eliciting opinions from a number of prominent experts.

The Intercollegiate Swimming Guide will be sent to any address upon receipt of 10 cents by the American Sports Publishing company, 21 Warren street, New York.

## WILLARD GOES TO CHICAGO

Champion Hopes to Conclude the Details of N. Y. Bout Soon.

Kansas City, Jan. 22.—With the intention of concluding arrangements for a championship bout in March, April and perhaps another fight in May, Jess Willard, holder of the world's heavyweight pugilistic title, Tom Jones, his manager, and Sam Stokely, left here Friday night for Chicago, where they will meet Jack Curley.

"I'm ready to meet anybody who brings on," Willard declared. "I want at least one fight before summer, and maybe another one if the dates are satisfactory."

It was intimated that should the signature of Frank Moran not be forthcoming to the proposed contract for a bout in New York, that Fred Fulton might be substituted.

## Quits Baseball to Run Taxi.

St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 22.—Phil Cooney, for three years second baseman for the St. Louis Cardinals, formerly played with Cleveland, C. O., Paterson, N. J., and Portland, Ore. teams. He is now operating a taxi here.

## Big League Opening Dates.

New York, Jan. 22.—The opening games for the eastern teams of the National and American Leagues on April 12 will be as follows: National League—New York at Brooklyn and Boston at Philadelphia. American

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